World Sanskrit Conference

1472. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a World Sanskrit Conference is held in different countries after every five years; and

(b) what help Government provides to the Indian scholars representing the country at the World Sanskrit Conferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI). (a) The World Sanskrit Conferences are held in different countries with the interval of two or three years.

(b) The Government of Indian sponsors a delegation consisting of prominent Sanskrit scholars to participate in it and full expenditure is borne by the Government.

Improper functioning of the IRCS

1473. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmnt are aware that Indian Red Cross Society is not functioning properly and there are reports of corruption and nepotism and what is the method of appointing the managing body of the Indian Red Cross;

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to improve the matters; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) According to the Indian Red Cross Society Act, the Managing Body of the Society shall consist of a Chairman to be nominated by the President and 20 members of whom:—

(i) Twenty shall be Vice Presidents elected by Branch Committees of 20 States;

(ii) Six shall be nominated by the President;

(iii) Three shall be elected by the Managing Body at its ordinary meeting held immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting-two of whom shall be from such active Union Territory Branches as may be decided by the Managing Body and one member elected by it as the Honorary Legal Adviser. Government have seen news papers reports alleging irregularities in the functioning of the Indian Red Cross Society.

The Indian Red Cross Society and its Managing Body are competent authorities to manage the affairs of the Indian Red Cross Society.

Abortion of Female Foetuses

1474. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the name of detecting genetic abnormalities, certain clinics are taking resource to aborting female foetuses; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any statistics in this regard and what effective steps the Government propose to take to put an end to this practice and punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI

SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The exact incidence of aborting female foetuses as a result of sex determination tests is not known as no study in this regard has been carried out.

As the abortion of female foetuses following sex determination tests is more of a social problem than legal—there is, thus, a greater need for social awareness in this regard. Government has taken steps to change the status of women in the society. A new Department of Women and Child Development under Human Resources Ministry has been created to help raise the status of women. The need to link issues like female literacy, women's employment, raising mean age of marriage of girls etc. along with improving the health status of women are some of the important thrusts being undertaken in different programems of the Government.

The Government has also constituted a small committee to go into the various aspects for regulating the use of sex-determination tests.

Modernisation of domestic Airports by the NAA

1475. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Airports Authority of India has failed in achieving its target of modernising and upgrading key domestic Airports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this work is now being entrusted to International Airports Authority of India;

(c) if so, what are the modalities of such arrangements; and

(d) what are the possible consequences thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) No, Sir. Modernisation of equipment and upgradation of facilities at airports is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner, depending upon the requirements projected by the operators (Airlines) as well as availability of resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Schools without Buildings in the Country

1476. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of schools in the country are without buildings and furniture;

(b) if so, what are the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) According to the Fourth All India Educational Survey, as on 30th September, 1978, the number of schools in the country without buildings and furniture was as shown in the attached Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 47)

(c) School education is primarily looked after by the state governments concerned. It is basically for them to provide the necessary infrastructure for schools they manage/regulate. The Government of India, under Operation Blackboard has initiated a programme for ensuring essential facilities including availability of at least two pucca class rooms and school furniture to primary schools in the country in a